



Current Issues in Prayer

November 2022

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.**



Getting started:

Find a quiet place. Look at the picture of the children for a few seconds and then close your eyes. Imagine you are near these children, feeling their sadness. Listen to their voices. Their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit like mine.



Short story:

To this day, I am uncomfortable with silence. I developed this discomfort while living in Baltimore. We didn't have a TV or a radio, so the house was silent most of the time. My mom was working long hours every day, six days a week, and my older sisters were working part-time jobs. I was often alone in our eerily silent apartment. I didn't like it, but knew my mom was working hard to keep our family together.

My mom suffered much as an immigrant to the United States. She had followed her husband with four kids in tow to come to this foreign country, to pursue the American dream. But when her husband abandoned her, she did everything in her power to prevent the dream from becoming a nightmare. Her resolve and commitment kept our family together.

As a single mom and with limited language skills, she worked long hours at two different jobs. During the day, she worked a 12-hour shift at a Baltimore inner-city take away — frying chicken, making steak subs and fish sandwiches. When her shift ended at 11 p.m., she'd head over to work the graveyard shift at an inner-city nursing home as a nurse's aide — changing bedpans and keeping watch through the night. Then, she'd return home in time to wake her children, make breakfast, and catch a short nap before returning to work at the take away. Those years of poverty and suffering are etched in my mind.



Time to reflect:

Do I thank God enough for all that I have? Do I pray for all the people in need, especially the homeless, orphans, and victims of war? Do I think of the immigrants and how they might be feeling? Do I pray for them? Do I thank God for my education? Do I help by donating money to organisations that support children in poor countries?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for all that you have given me in my life. Please help the homeless, the orphans and the victims of war. May they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection. Lord, bestow your great unconditional love upon them and help them feel your joy, peace and love.



Inspiration:

Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. If you are humble, nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person. We do not need guns and bombs to bring peace, we need love and compassion.

Saint Theresa Of Calcutta



Hands on:

I do voluntary work or help financially organisations that support children in need. Help the missions by purchasing revision workbooks and other educational material from Joan Libreri on <https://www.facebook.com/Joans-Crafts-for-Charity-1508010309512669>, or www.zaype.com/missio or <https://www.facebook.com/joan.libreri> or by calling on 99240867.

With permission from Joan Libreri